

HOUSE BILL 1304
By Pruitt

AN ACT to designate the "Citizens Plaza Building" in Nashville as the "Harold M. Love State Office Building".

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should permanently commemorate the accomplishments of those sterling public servants who served their respective communities with the greatest acumen, integrity and dedication; and

WHEREAS, the late Representative Harold Love was one such person, who distinguished himself as a premier cultural and political leader in Nashville's African-American community for more than 35 years, earning the unqualified respect and admiration of his peers and constituents alike; and

WHEREAS, throughout his illustrious tenure in public service, Harold M. Love excelled in many roles; yet as he discharged the duties of his offices, he always remained a very sensitive and compassionate man who cared deeply for his fellow human beings and their welfare; and

WHEREAS, as a member first of Nashville's City Council, and then the Metropolitan Council and the General Assembly, Harold Love was a persistent and articulate advocate for the neighborhoods of North Nashville and their institutions, including Tennessee State University, Meharry Medical College, Fisk University and the 18th Avenue Community Center; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Love was a native Nashvillian who loved the city and her citizens whom he served so capably; and

WHEREAS, he was a graduate of Pearl High School where he earned academic honors as the valedictorian of his 1935 graduating class; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Love earned his Bachelor of Science degree from Tennessee State University in 1939 and his Master of Science degree from Fisk University in 1941; and

WHEREAS, years later, Mr. Love was instrumental as a member of the House of Representatives in appropriating more than 100 million dollars to TSU for major renovation projects; and

WHEREAS, after bravely serving in the European Theater during World War II, during which time he received the Distinguished Service Award, Mr. Love became an insurance agent in Nashville for the Atlanta Life Insurance Company and served that company with acumen and industry for over 27 years; he was one of the first black salesmen hired in the South by Prudential Insurance Company, and retired as Salesman Emeritus after an exemplary career; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Love began his illustrious career in public service as a member of the old Nashville City Council in 1961; he continued his meritorious service to the good people of Nashville and Davidson County as a member of the Metropolitan Council from 1963 to 1971; and

WHEREAS, in 1968, he was elected to serve the first of his 12 terms and 24 years in the House of Representatives; rarely opposed in legislative races, he campaigned effectively with the slogan "Keep Love in the House"; and

WHEREAS, a distinguished and respected member of this Body from 1968 to 1994, he also served ably as a member of the House Finance, Ways and Means Committee and the House Calendar and Rules Committee during his extremely productive tenure on Capitol Hill; and

WHEREAS, because of his acumen, industry and conscientious service, Mr. Love became one of the first African-American committee chairs in the House of Representatives, astutely serving as Chair of the House State and Local Government Committee; and

WHEREAS, Harold M. Love was truly one of the most dedicated public servants that Nashville and Davidson County, and indeed the State of Tennessee, have ever known, and his life of purpose and commitment to the greater good should be appropriately commemorated; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the "Citizens Plaza Building" in Nashville is hereby designated the "Harold M. Love State Office Building" as a lasting tribute to one of this state's most gifted public servants.

SECTION 2. The department of general services is directed to erect suitable signs or to affix suitable markers designating such building as the "Harold M. Love State Office Building".

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.